

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

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DRAFTED BY EA/ROC:KJWEAVER:ARCK

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 080145

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: ENRG, CH, KS, TW, JA

SUBJECT: GULF PLANS TO DRILL IN ZONE 2 CONCESSION IN
EAST CHINA SEA

REFERENCE: TOKYO 3902

1. ON APRIL 7, STUART NELSON, RICHARD ANDERSON, AND
MANUEL RIGO OF GULF OIL CORPORATION MET WITH DEPUTY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY EDMOND TO DISCUSS GULF'S PLANS FOR
FURTHER TEST DRILLING IN ITS ZONE 2 CONCESSION GRANTED
BY THE ROC. NELSON CONFIRMED THE INFORMATION REPORTED
REFTEL THAT IF DRILLING IN ZONE 4 UNDER A CONCESSION
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GRANTED BY KOREA IS POSTPONED, GULF PLANS TO USE WODECO

VIII, ALREADY ON SITE 30-35 MILES OFF THE NORTHERN COAST OF TAIWAN, TO DRILL AN ADDITIONAL WELL IN ZONE 2.

2. ANDERSON SAID THERE WERE SEVERAL SITES UNDER CONSIDERATION: TWO NORTHEAST AND NORTHWEST, RESPECTIVELY, OF WODECO VIII'S CURRENT POSITION, BOTH IN AREA B (25-30 TO 26N BY 121 TO 123 E); AND SEVERAL IN AREA G, SOME BUT NOT ALL REPEAT NOT ALL OF WHICH ARE OVERLAPPED BY THE JAPEX CONCESSION. HE ADDED THAT GULF HAD ALSO BEEN APPROACHED BY OCEANIC TO LEASE WODECO VIII FOR EX-

PLORATORY DRILLING IN THE LATTER'S ZONE 3 CONCESSION FURTHER NORTH. IN RESPONSE TO THE DEPARTMENT'S QUERY WHETHER DRILLING IN THE PORTION OF AREA G CLAIMED BY JAPAN COULD BE AVOIDED GIVEN THE NUMBER OF ALTERNATIVE SITES, ANDERSON REPLIED AFFIRMATIVELY BUT DID NOT COMMENT FURTHER.

3. EDMOND REITERATED THE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION ON DRILLING BY US FIRMS IN DISPUTED WATERS, EMPHASIZING JAPAN'S PARTICULAR SENSITIVITY TOWARD OPERATIONS IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THE SENKAKUS. ANDERSON SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE GOJ WOULD NOT PROTEST DRILLING BY US FIRMS SOUTH OF 28 N. EDMOND SUGGESTED THAT GULF DISCUSS THIS AND THEIR PROSPECTIVE PLANS FOR DRILLING WITH THE JAPANESE. ANDERSON REPLIED THAT GULF PLANNED TO DO THIS AND HAD NO INTENTION OF PROCEEDING WITHOUT FULLY EXPLORING ALL ALTERNATIVES. KISSINGER

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